(e) what is the number of cases investigated by the CBI in which departmental inquiries are still pending stating the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) According to DDA during the period 1971 to 1983 the C.B.I. registered 94 cases for inquiries.

(b) to (e) A Statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXXXV, Annexure No. 7].

Shortage of drinking water due to drought in Bundelkhand, U.P.

410. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of drinking water and unprecedented drought conditions prevailing in Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh virtually driving the inhabitants to starvation; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government stating the nature and the quantum of the Central assistance given to the State Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) In the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh on 18th May, 1985, drought conditions were reported in 26 districts of the State, due to scanty rainfall during the period November, 1984 to March, 1985. The problem of drinking water was also reported in 43 districts of the State.

A ceiling of Central assistance of Rs. 51.78 crores has been sanctioned for drought relief measures. This includes Rs. 8.88 crores for Drinking Water Programme both in Rural areas and Urban areas and Rs. 23.45 crores for Employment Generation Programme.

Since administration of relief expenditure is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, it is for the State Government to make district-wise allocation under each head of relief.

Convention of agriculturists on Agricultural Prices

411. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Kisan Organisations for holding a natural convention of agricultural producers, members of the Central Price Commission and the officials of the Agriculture Ministry before prices of agricultural commodities are determined every year; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) No specific proposal of this nature has been received. However, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices have already evolved a system of consultations with State Government, farmers' organisations and other concerned interests before formulating their price proposals.

Damage to Sugarcane crop

412. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey with regard to the damage suffered by the sugarcane crop in large parts of the country due to pyrilla; and